

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2758
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd December 2022)**

DEVELOPMENT OF CALICUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

2758. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has any data regarding the number of seats available from Kozhikode and other International Airports of Kerala to other International destinations and if so the details thereof;

(b) whether despite several pleas from Indian diaspora in GCC countries to increase number of seats to GCC countries, no action has been taken in this regard and if so the details thereof including reasons for delay;

(c) whether the Government has any data regarding the performance of Calicut International Airport compared to other airports of Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has noticed that in spite of good performance, Calicut International Airport is neglected in terms of development and if so, the details of the steps taken to improve infrastructure and bring in wide bodied aircraft to Calicut airport?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN.
(DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) Under the various Air Service Agreements concluded by India with foreign countries, seats or services are negotiated for the country as a whole and not on an airport-wise basis. Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any international/customs airport to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service Agreements as per mutually agreed capacity limits. The data on flight operations as per Winter schedule 2022 from international airports in Kerala is at Annexure A.

(b) Operations of foreign airlines are governed by bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and the respective country (which has designated the airline). Any foreign airline can operate to/from a point (airport) in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA. At present, the Government of India follows a policy of promoting more international operations by Indian carriers from non-metro points either directly or through their own domestic operations. Accordingly, to support the Indian carriers, the policy is to not grant any non-metro airport as a new point of call in the ASAs to any foreign carrier.

In accordance with Air Services Agreements (ASA), Indian designated carriers are free to mount operations to/from any international airport including Kozhikode to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral air service agreements concluded by India with foreign countries as per mutually agreed capacity limits.

It may also be noted that Kozhikode, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram airports are already included in the list of 18 tourist gateway destinations from where the Indian carriers and carriers of 5 SAARC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and 10 ASEAN countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines and Laos) can operate unlimited frequencies subject to availability of slots at the airport. As such, the government has provided an enabling environment for growth of civil aviation sector but does not interfere in the operational plans of the airlines.

Airlines are free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate within the ambit of bilateral agreements. The airlines provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. ;

(c) The State of Kerala has Kozhikode, Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin International Airports. The comparison of flight movements, footfall and freight movement at these airports is at Annexure B.;

(d) In August 2020 an Air India Express flight met with an accident at Kozhikode airport. Consequently, the commercial wide-body operations were suspended by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) pending investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). The AAIB which conducted the investigation made certain recommendations with regard to Kozhikode airport.;

A Committee of aviation experts was constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to oversee the implementation of the recommendations made in the report of the investigation conducted by AAIB and the execution of the steps required for implementation of these recommendations. One of the mandates of the Committee was to study the feasibility of operation of Wide Body aircraft at Kozhikode airport and to give its recommendations thereon. The Committee recommended that Code D and Code E aircraft operations may remain suspended till such time that all recommendations and additional recommendations accepted by the Committee along with mitigation measures for safe Code C aircraft operations are put in place. As such, the commercial operations of Wide Bodied aircraft from Kozhikode airport are presently suspended.

One of the recommendations of the Committee was for providing Runway End Safety Area (RESA) at both ends of the runway at Kozhikode airport as per the extant provisions. This Ministry has requested Kerala Government to provide stabilized leveled land for runway expansion at Kozhikode airport. Details such as the timelines for handing over the land, methodology of costing, cost etc. were requested from the State Government, which are yet to be received. The resumption of Code D and Code E operations from Kozhikode is dependent on the requested land being made available by the State government.

Annexure A to Unstarred Question No. 2758 for Lok Sabha

Current Operations as per Winter Schedule 2022 (Services per week):

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Airport</i>	<i>Indian Carriers</i>	<i>Foreign Carriers</i>	<i>Foreign Destinations Connected</i>
1.	<i>Kannur</i>	60	-	Dubai, Sharjah, Muscat, Bahrain, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Doha, Riyadh and Dammam.
2.	<i>Trivandrum</i>	37	74	Sharjah, Abudhabi, Doha(via Calicut), Dubai, Muscat, Bahrain, Dammam, Colombo, Singapore, Kuwait, Hanimaadhoo and Male.
3.	<i>Cochin</i>	110	154	Abu Dhabi, Doha, Kuwait, Muscat, Male, Dubai, London-Heathrow, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Sharjah, Bahrain, Dammam, Riyadh, Salalah, Singapore, Jeddah and Colombo.
4.	<i>Kozhikode</i>	228	88	Dubai, Sharjah, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dammam, Doha, Jeddah, Kuwait City, Muscat, Sheikhdome, Riyadh, Salalah and Trivandrum.

Annexure B to Unstarred Question No. 2758 for Lok Sabha

The comparison of flight movements, footfall and freight movement at airports in Kerala:

Name of Airport	Flight Movements (April, 21 - October, 22)	Passenger footfall (April, 21 - October, 22)	Freight movement (April, 21 - October, 22) (In metric tonnes)
Calicut	28716	3427611	18175
Kannur	16738	1496611	4033
Thiruvananthapuram	29225	3603964	26512
Cochin	72954	9569743	91572